

# Good Samaritan News

November 16, 2008

## From the Church of the Good Samaritan in Brunswick, Maine

An ecumenical ministry with a base in the Anglican Tradition

Website: [www.churchofthegoodsamaritan.com/](http://www.churchofthegoodsamaritan.com/)

Please let us know your email address—we can send this to you each week. ***Our Church — Come ... Join us! Meditation 3:30 p.m. in the chapel — Pilgrim House; service 4:00 p.m. Pilgrim House is the brick building adjacent to First Parish Church UCC in Brunswick. If you can't attend, join us in prayer at 4:00.***

**Mission Statement:** *We are a loving and diverse faith-based community that comes from a variety of traditions. We gather in Christ's name to seek to do God's Will and bring love and grace into the world. We are committed to providing a safe and nurturing environment for spiritual healing and growth for all who wish to join us. We offer social action, support, and education to the greater community. An integral part of our mission is to break down barriers of prejudice and misunderstanding while offering a welcoming hand to all who seek inclusion. We welcome you!*

## ICON CARDS FOR CHRISTMAS

We are now accepting orders for our well-known Icon cards! Our series this year consist of six different cards per package, which cost \$12.00. All of the icons this year are by iconographer +David Christopher Bellville. They do not have Christmas greetings inside so they can be used for Christmas, or as gifts, or at other times of the year. Please let us know if you would like to order some by emailing or calling us. We can mail them if desired. A display of the cards will be posted on the website soon, and will be available for sale after services at First Parish and Good Sam.

## Reflections from Vicar David

The Gospel lesson this Sunday is about stewardship. It is a harsh one (Matthew 25: 14-30). It is one that I might like to avoid. However, sometimes we must look at difficult lessons straight in the eye and deal with them. In this lesson, a master entrusts his slaves with money, an amount equivalent to about 15 years of wages, was given to each one. Two of the servants invest wisely, and return it to the master with earnings. The third, afraid of the master's wrath, buries it and then simply returns it to the master. The master condemns this servant, chastising him for being 'wicked and lazy'. He is condemned to the 'outer darkness'. It is evident that in this Gospel, the specter of the second coming and the potential last judgment loom central and present in it. What is missing in this lesson is a servant that made a poor investment, and lost money. That might be quite relevant to our current situation.

What is it that this Gospel is teaching us today, right now? How apropos is it in terms of what we in this country have done, and are doing with our investments, and our stewardship of money? Our desire for more has driven us as a nation to go deeper into debt, and our financial institutions have encouraged people to take on debt that they could not manage in the long run. We have become a nation of debtors, in many ways greedy for power, wealth, and prestige.

There are no easy answers for our current situation. We pray that the new administration in Washington will be guided by wisdom and right priorities in terms of resolving our financial problems, and caring for our country and encouraging peace and goodwill among all nations. Many of us have made poor decisions with investments and use of funds. We have not invested in caring enough for others perhaps, in saving our environment, in wellness instead of trying to fix illnesses that are based, in part on poor self-care choices. We have failed as a nation, and as individuals. We have also been led astray, misinformed, and have been naïve.

However, our faith teaches us to let the past be the past and to move on, walking on higher and better ground. We all have an opportunity to support our government, our representatives, our local communities, and our churches. We must keep giving and helping each other out during this time of crisis, and learn from our communal and individual mistakes. This is a time of confession, of absolution, and of new life.

Amen. Bishop David

## New Format, New Schedule for Good Sam

**Services now begin at 4 instead of 5 p.m.** This means that meditation will be at **3:30**. Eucharist twice a month, Evening Prayer once a month, and once each month a time of prayer and potluck /discussion group.

## Good Samaritan Prayer List

**Please send requests to [cogs@gwi.net](mailto:cogs@gwi.net). Attention: Father Barry**

**Prayer for this week:** God, guide and be with me this week, especially \_\_\_\_\_, I especially pray for...Amen. (Send us updates to this list:.) **We pray this week for: Sick/recovering:** John F., Sue, Evelyn, Joe B, Ellen, Bob H., Ursula, Joe, Howard, Nick, +David, Merle, Scott's father, Barry+, Jon, +Rusty, +Rusty's brother, Mark, Jessi, Barbara, +David H., Helen, Royce.. **Discernment/ transition:** Melissa and Michael for work. For Mike and Tom. **Waiting for adoption:** Anna from Guatemala. **Died:** Melissa's brother, David M. Ric, Rose, Rick, Betty, Bob. **Thanksgiving:** for our web master, John Fischer. *We make the sign of the cross and ask God for deeper faith, enduring hope, and divine love.*

Join others and us around the world in reading the daily lectionary and in daily prayer

Sun Nov 16	am: 66, 67 pm: 19, 46	Hab 1:1-2:1	Phil 3:13-4:1	Matt 23:13-24
Mon Pr28 Nov 17	am: 89:1-18 pm: 89:19-52	Hab 2:1-4, 9-20	Jam 2:14-26	Luke 16:19-31

Tue Nov 18	am: 97, 99, 100 pm: 94, 95	Hab 3:2-19	Jam 3:1-12	Luke 17:1-10
Wed Nov 19	am: 101, 109 pm: 119:121-144	Mal 1:1, 6-14	Jam 3:13-4:12	Luke 17:11-19
Thur Nov 20	am: 105:1-22 pm: 105:23-45	Mal 2:1-16	Jam 4:13-5:6	Luke 17:20-37
Fri Nov 21	am: 102 pm: 107:1-32	Mal 3:1-12	Jam 5:7-12	Luke 18:1-8
Sat Nov 22	am: 107:33-43, 108 pm: 33	Mal 3:13-4:6	Jam 5:13-20	Luke 18:9-14
Sun Nov 23	am: 118 pm: 145	Zech 9:9-16	1 Pet 3:13-22	Matt 21:1-13
Mon Pr29 Nov 24	am: 106:1-18 pm: 106:19-48	Zech 10:1-12	Gal 6:1-10	Luke 18:15-30
Tue Nov 25	am: 120-123 pm: 124, 125, 126	Zech 11:4-17	1 Cor 3:10-23	Luke 18:31-43
Wed Nov 26	am: 119:145-176 pm: 128, 129, 130	Zech 12:1-10	Eph 1:3-14	Luke 19:1-10
Thur Nov 27	am: 131, 132, 133 pm: 134, 135	Zech 13:1-9	Eph 1:15-23	Luke 19:11-27
Fri Nov 28	am: 140, 142 pm: 141, 143	Zech 14:1-11	Rom 15:7-13	Luke 19:28-40
Sat Nov 29	am: 137, 144 pm: 104	Zech 14:12-21	Phil 2:1-11	Luke 19:41-48

### Clobber Text Group Continues

The Clobber Text group will meet Wednesday, December 10th at 5:00 p.m. at the home of Ray and David in Woolwich. We are looking for donors to help fund the costs of publication and distribution. If you can contribute or know of someone who might, please contact Bishop David at 207 751-5900. The brochure is a response to those "clobber texts" that fundamentalist Christians use to condemn gay and lesbian people.

**Thanks to First Parish Church (UCC) for giving us shelter, space for an office, and to worship! Donations are needed at this time. According to our treasurer, we are in bleak circumstance financially. Please send your donations in to our office address. They are fully tax-deductible.**

**Thanks GWI!** Thanks to the generosity of Great Works Internet we pay only a nominal fee for our email, web site, and Internet access. Thanks! Please use Great Works Internet!!

**Thanks to John Fischer,** our dedicated web master, who is working on exciting new ways to update our website.

### Calendar of worship ministry assignments

	<b>New TIME</b>	Nov 23	Nov 30	Dec 7	Dec 14	Dec 21	Dec 24	Dec 28	Jan 4
<b>Events &amp; Clergy</b>	<b>4P.M. Service</b>	P34 Marty CM	1 ADV EP Deb	NO Serv Ec. Lsns	3 ADV BD FB	4 ADV BD	C. Eve BD FB	1 Chr. FB	2 Chr. EP Kar.
<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>3:30</b>	Deb	Deb	Carols	Deb	Deb	Deb	Deb	
<b>Hospitality</b>	<b>Meditation</b>	Marty	Deb	3 pm	BD	Mar.	PL	FB	Kar.
<b>Music</b>		Lucy	Lucy	St. J	Lucy	Lucy	Lucy	Ray	Lucy

**If needed, find a replacement and call (729-0180) or Bishop David (751-5690) Thanks!**

FPC-First Parish Church PL-Pot Luck/Community Mtg EP- Evening Prayer  
CM-Prayer, discussion and Potluck

**Please do not wear scented lotions, perfumes, etc. to church services or events.**  
**Church of the Good Samaritan Website: <http://www.churchofthegoodsamaritan.com/>**

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